

Dr. Peterson

Faculty & Staff Service Recognition Reception

2-4 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2015, Georgia Tech Student Center Ballroom

Let me add my sincere congratulations at reaching the important milestones of 10 and 25 years of service to Georgia Tech. The accumulated institutional knowledge in this room and among our honorees who could not be here today is amazing. We calculate that the grand total of service to Georgia Tech by those we're honoring today is almost 3.2 million.

The changes you've seen since you arrived here have been breathtaking. You've seen Tech Square grow from an undeveloped area to one of the nation's premier research and innovation centers. This summer, we'll about to open the EBB, or Engineered Biosystems Building, which we expect to become a focal point for biomedical science and human health in Georgia.

We live in a time when job churn is commonplace. No longer do graduates find a job with the intention of staying there for a career. That's what makes your longevity and dedication to Georgia Tech all the more impressive.

We have 105 honorees who have been with us 10 years, and 44 of them are here today, I'm told. We've got 21 people who have made it to 25 years, and 10 are here. Just as a point of information, those numbers are about half of what we would normally see at this reception, but we're transitioning this event to honor those who hit their milestone in the fiscal year between Jan. 1 and June 30 of this year.

Before I finish, I just wanted to share with you a couple of testimonials from two of our honorees today. I think they express what a lot of you probably feel about Georgia Tech, so please let me read them to you:

“This was a great place to work on day 1 - and it still is. GT is home to not only the smartest people in the world, but some of the nicest people too. I also have to say that being there to hear President Obama speak live was a huge thrill. It's something I'll remember forever.” – ***Kirk Englehardt, 10-Year Service Honoree***

“My fondest memory of Georgia Tech is the day that I sat on my bunk bed in Howell dorm flipping through a hard copy (we didn't know to call it a hard copy back then) of the GT catalog to find a major to change to because I was flunking out of ChE. I was determined to graduate from Georgia Tech and I DID! That same determination drives me in my current position as Research Program Manager in Aerospace Engineering to challenge myself to give my best every day and hopefully make a meaningful contribution to my alma mater that has given me so much. It is a fond memory, not because it was pleasant, but because it helped me to connect with my passion to succeed. In my experience that is one of the best gifts of a Georgia Tech education, students graduate knowing that they have what it takes to successfully pursue their dreams.” - ***Cindy Pendley, 10-Year Service Honoree***

In closing, just let say again how proud we are of you, and how grateful for your service, dedication and passion for Georgia Tech. You are what makes the Institute one of the world's great technological universities, and we thank you.